

that the state requires now are not out of reason, certainly not out of reason. The Supreme Court has held so, too. So I guess we are at the point where we decide whether we want to let down the bars, forget everything we have worked for up to now, and say, a few children in the state, fend your own way, good luck to you, but if you wind up without too much of an education, it is not our fault, but it is really our fault. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Howard Peterson.

SENATOR H. PETERSON: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, first I would like to call your attention to an item that I passed out that has a little black around the outer edge which is the first page of the Constitution of the State of Nebraska and I particularly call your attention to Section 4 of that Constitution, particularly to the last sentence of that Section. "Religion, morality, and knowledge, however, being essential to good government, it shall be the duty of the Legislature to pass suitable laws to protect every religious denomination in the peaceable enjoyment of its own mode of public worship," and notice that next is a comma, not a period, "and to encourage schools and the means of instruction." And that specifically is what we are asking you, as a member of this Legislature, who took your oath of office, to do this day and I would like to call Senator Bill Nichol's attention to the fact that we are not doing away with certification. We are creating a niche for a particular group of people who have, if anyone has sacrificed, certainly they have sacrificed in order to educate their children. I would like to go back into just a little history of how this particular amendment got to this floor. First of all, I think all of us know that the report by the so-called Spire Commission, I would rather call it the Governor's Commission, came before the Education Committee on January the 26th. That following week they went out across the state to give their report to the public. I happened to meet with them in Grand Island on Monday, January 30th, and one of the questions that I asked that afternoon of Mr. Spires was if we put together a rough draft of what you have said in your report, would you be willing to look at it and would you be willing to give us